Police Continue Militarization Amid Disarmament Of Citizens

by THOMAS R. EDDLEM | THE NEW AMERICAN | JANUARY 2, 2015



The *Washington Times* published two news stories December 30 in which America's Founding Fathers would have seen as a disturbing pattern.

The paper reported that the pace of military-grade shipments to police stations has accelerated in the wake of the Ferguson, Missouri riots and that Maryland State Police have been targeting out-of-state handgun owners on highways for technical violations of state gun control laws.

The *Times* <u>noted</u> that the federal Law Enforcement Support Office sent nearly 4,000 automatic weapons to local police agencies in just the last three months:

The 3,879 rifles the Pentagon shipped was an astronomical increase over the dozen rifles shipped during the same three-month period in 2013, with several police agencies taking delivery of hundreds of rifles soon after the Ferguson riots.

Armored vehicles, which drew particular scrutiny in the riots in Ferguson and other cities, were less popular in the aftermath. The Pentagon shipped just 11 mine-resistant vehicles, or MRAPs, from Aug. 15 through Nov. 14, compared to nearly 180 in the same time period a year earlier.

One of the recipients of the federal government largesse was the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which received 415 M-16 automatic rifles, more than one for every one of their 256 officers. "They all work in pretty remote locations out of their homes, so that's why they would each be outfitted with a rifle," a spokesman for the Michigan DNR told the Washington Times, adding that the weapons would be able to fire only on semi-automatic once modified.

So much for the leftist slogan that one does not need an "assault weapon" to go hunting.

The concept of a militarized police force coupled with disarmed citizens flies in the face of the attitude of the Founding Fathers, who advocated the reverse: a disarmed government and a heavily armed citizenry. The 1780 Massachusetts state constitution, written by President John Adams, <u>states in Article XVII</u>:

The people have a right to keep and to bear arms for the common defence [sic]. And as, in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the legislature; and the military power shall always be held in an exact subordination to the civil authority, and be governed by it.

Meanwhile, the Maryland State Police have been <u>targeting</u> legal out-of-state gun owners for disarmament. "My wife's hysterical, shaking and crying," Florida resident John Filippidis told the *Washington Times*, after having his car searched on a speeding stop. Filippidis noted that his family was made to stand out in the cold winter weather for 90 minutes, and police officers called him a "liar" for truthfully saying that his legal firearm was at his Florida home. Maryland's strict citizen gun control laws don't recognize out-of-state permits and have unnecessarily technical storage regulations almost guaranteeing out-of-state non-compliance. Filippidis stated,

I don't have a criminal record. I own a business. I'm a family man, and I tried to explain that to [the officer]. But he had a bad attitude; didn't want to hear my story. He just wanted to find that gun and take me away from my family. That was his goal, but he couldn't do it, because I didn't have a gun, like I told him.

A spokesman for the Maryland State Police didn't deny targeting out-of-state concealed carry permit holders, and asserted that the procedure was perfectly legal.

The <u>Maryland State Declaration of Rights</u>, adopted in 1867, echoes the Massachusetts Constitution by strongly supporting a state citizen militia and calling a standing army "dangerous to liberty."

Being Homeless In Miami May Lead To A Tasering

by SCOTT SHACKFORD | REASON | JANUARY 2, 2015

The *Miami New Times* has <u>investigated</u> years of Taser use by police officers in South Florida and has found all sorts of problems. Contain your surprise. Reporter Michael E. Miller documents officers using them against the homeless and mentally ill to force compliance, not because the officers are being threatened in any way. And some of them are attempting to conceal their misuse of Tasers from their departments.

Miller's deep dive opens with the tale of a Miami Police officer using a Taser on a homeless man inside a Publix grocery store in order to intimidate him into staying away. The man was never arrested or charged with a crime. The officer never even filed a report about the incident. But a customer in the store witnessed what happened and filed a complaint with the police department.





From there Miller delves into the history of Tasers and their use, and more particularly their misuse. Miami police have used Tasers on 6-year-olds having temper tantrums, a 12-year-old girl skipping school, and many unarmed people who sometimes never even get charged with crimes. Miller notes that Miami, like the rest of the country, has seen a big drop in crime, but Taser use has remained steady since 2010 and fatal shootings by police have increased:

This statistic is troubling because Tasers were introduced with the promise of reducing deadly policeinvolved shootings, says Justin Mazzola, a researcher for Amnesty International.

"It hasn't really put a dent into when police are using their firearms," he says of national stats that mirror Miami's. "Tasers are being used in a

myriad of incidents when normally use of force wouldn't even be necessary."

In a review of more than 100 police reports describing taserings, *New Times* found police regularly use their Tasers on nonviolent suspects simply for fleeing or "tensing."

In 72 of the cases *New Times* analyzed, the suspect was not armed. In 40 of the cases, charges were dropped or never even filed in the first place. The incident with the homeless man was not an anomaly:

On Thanksgiving weekend in 2013, Miami Beach Police Officer Enrique Rios spotted a homeless man named Michael Franks on Lincoln Road asking passersby for change. When Rios told him to get lost, Franks told the cop, "Go fuck yourself," and then resisted getting handcuffed. Rios wrote in a report that he "was forced to drive-stun the defendant for approximately three separate cycles in order to gain the defendant's compliance."

This appears to violate MBPD's rules because Franks was neither fleeing nor physically threatening. Instead, he was tasered simply to force him to comply with orders -- a Taser use specifically banned in 2004. (Franks was convicted of panhandling and paid a \$50 fine. The resisting arrest charge was dropped.)

Miami Police, meanwhile, have tasered at least a half-dozen homeless men in the past year, mostly for shoplifting food or clothes. On September 16, an officer zapped a homeless man twice for refusing to leave José Martí Park, where he was sleeping. A week later, another MPD officer tasered a homeless man who had wandered into Publix demanding food.

The use of Tasers in the Miami area has gotten much more attention since the killing of <u>Israel Hernandez</u>, an 18-year-old graffiti tagger who died as a direct result of getting tasered by officers in 2013 following a chase. Miller <u>noted in 2013</u> that the officer who tasered Hernandez had a history of problem behavior. In this more recent story he points out the officer, Vincent Miller, is quick to turn to

the Taser:

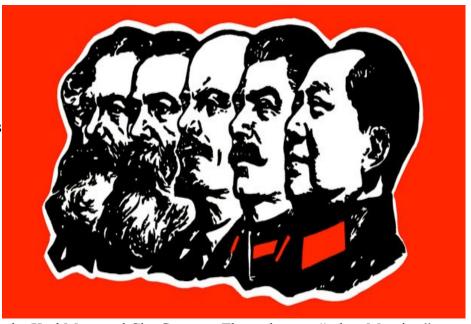
Many of Miller's taserings were worrying. Five times Miller had tasered homeless or poor people for shoplifting. On May 24, 2011, for instance, he shocked a man who had walked into a Target barefoot and then refused to take off the \$19.99 Pro Spirit sneakers he had put on. On January 30, 2013, Miller confronted Zacharia Brown, a 31-year-old stealing ravioli and vitamins from the Publix on Biscayne Boulevard at 18th Street. When Brown fled, Miller chased him and shot him in the back with his Taser.

Read more statistics and horror stories about how police use their Tasers in Miami here.

The Specter That Haunts America

by THOMAS DILORENZO | LEWROCKWELL.COM | JANUARY 2, 2015

They are hardcore leftists who proudly list as their heroes communist agitators from the last century. a specter is haunting America. It is a group of influential individuals who harbor an intense hatred of such principles as private property, markets, limited constitutional government, and freedom itself. They are hardcore leftists who proudly list as their heroes communist agitators from the last century. They despise private property and advocate nationalization. They attempt to brainwash young children by distributing trinkets in



public schools adorned with sayings by Karl Marx and Che Guevara. They advocate "urban Marxism" for America's cities and "Third World communism" for the less-developed countries of the world. They employ shady figures from the sixties "protest movement" who admit to having committed violent crimes that caused the death of innocent bystanders. The head of the organization proudly accepted a lifetime achievement award named after an old communist revolutionary.

This organization specializes in waging vicious, malicious, campaigns of libel, slander, and character assassination against virtually anyone who publicly expresses support for private property, free markets, constitutionalism, individualism (as opposed to collectivism), and liberty. This of course is the old classic Marxist/Leninist political strategy.

At the top of their list of smear targets is a private organization that says it defends the principles of "faith, family, tradition, community, private property, loyalty, courage, and honor." Anyone who says such things must be destroyed, says The Specter.

The Specter mobilized into hyper-smear mode when this same private organization wrote on its Web

site that it opposes the state's "perpetual wars for perpetual peace;" the notion that the U.S. government should "rule the world;" the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and all other offensive wars; and all forms of political correctness. All such talk should be brutally censored, says The Specter.

Another private organization that has been viciously smeared by The Specter is one that lives by the motto that "the legitimate function of government" is to secure our inalienable rights to life, liberty, and property because "the nature of government is to usurp the liberty of the people." They, too, must be marginalized and destroyed says The Specter. Any totalitarian would wholeheartedly agree.

The Specter once convinced the Department of Homeland Security to publicly announce that anyone with a "Ron Paul for President" bumper sticker "posed a terrorist threat." To The Specter, Ron Paul's well-known views on economics, civil liberties, and foreign policy are bound to incite acts of domestic terrorism. Of course, to the hardcore Marxists employed by The Specter, tax cuts or opposition to socialized medicine (or any other government program) would constitute "domestic terrorism."

The Specter also spews hatred and slander at police and military officers who have reiterated their pledge to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, anyone who says such a thing is instantly placed somewhere on The Specter's Hate-O-Meter.

When describing this "specter" I speak of course of the moral conscience of the Washington establishment, the Southern Poverty Law Center, which should more appropriately be labeled the Soviet Poverty Law Center. All of the above facts about its opinions and activities are well documented. See, for example, my LewRockwell.com articles, "Racial Racketeering for Fun and Profit;" "What a Hate Group Hates;" and "The Latest Leftist Smear of Patriots and Constitutionalists." Think about this the next time you hear that an individual or organization has been placed on the Soviet Poverty Law Center's "hate group" list, should be considered to be a public enemy, and should be banned forever from the public square.

ALL VIDEOS BELOW ARE A MUST WATCH!!!!

Which Dictator Killed the Most People

 $\frac{http://www.coolinfoimages.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Which-Dictator-Killed-the-Most-People.jpg$

Antony Sutton - Wall Street & Bolshevik Revolution Part 1of 2 VIDEO BELOW https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCKLcEJ0zzg

Antony Sutton - Wall Street & Bolshevik Revolution 2 of 2 VIDEO BELOW https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=Be1nynGKQEM

Joel Skousen - The Hidden Power Structure of the Left-Right Paradigm VIDEO BELOW https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-OtgZ0nGlM

